

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to applicant's response filed on 07/13/2009.
2. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-21, 23-28 and 30-33 are pending.
3. Claims 6, 16, 22, 29 and 34 are cancelled.
4. Applicant's arguments are persuasive in the light of Applicant Remarks filed on 07/13/2009. Therefore the rejections of the claims have been withdrawn.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-21, 23-28 and 30-33 are allowed.
2. Independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are the inclusion of the following limitations that are not found in the prior art and they are uniquely distinct features. The closest prior arts are Harada et al., Patent No. US 6,581,160 B1 and Chatani et al., Pub. No. US 2002/0104019 A1.

Harada discloses a storage medium that can refer to revocation information and prohibit access to content by an unauthorized electronic appliance, even when the unauthorized electronic appliance appears after the storage medium has been manufactured. The invention also aims to provide suitable revocation information updating apparatus and method for such medium. And Chatani discloses a method for distributing a software product, comprising the steps of: encoding the software product with an encryption data string for

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playback on a client console having a storage media detachably installed therein;  
receiving user identification data from a user using the client console;  
transmitting a first encryption key to the user; coding an identification for the  
software product in the first encryption key; receiving software product purchase  
information from the user; encoding data representing the user purchase  
information and the first encryption key and a second encryption key; and  
transmitting the first encryption key and second encryption key to the user to  
allow the user to decrypt the encrypted software product.

However, these arts individually or in combination, fail to anticipate or  
render the following limitations: "A method for securing circulation of an  
encrypted digital document to be reproduced with a document reader, the  
method comprising:

providing a user with a storage device storing identification information  
identifying the storage device and for storing an identification information list  
comprising identification information identifying recent document readers  
previously operated with the storage device;

transmitting to a server over the digital data transmission network from the  
storage device to the server upon connection of the storage device to the server  
by a terminal connected to the digital data transmission network and to the  
storage device

information identifying the digital document to be reproduced, and  
the information list and the identification information of the storage device;

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identifying from the server the storage device on the basis of the information identification of the storage device transmitted to the server;

determining possible fraudulent use of the storage device based upon the information list that is transmitted to the server, the server comparing the identification information in the information list with an authorized or fraudulent reader list for determining fraudulent use of the storage device;

if the storage device is not being fraudulently used, then transmitting over the digital data transmission network from the server to the computer terminal a decryption key specific to the digital document to be reproduced, with the decryption key being stored in the storage device;

decrypting the digital document using the stored decryption key by the document reader connected to the storage device; and

reproducing the digital document decrypted by the document reader; and

if the storage device is being fraudulently used, then the decryption key is not transmitted over the digital data transmission network from the server to the storage device” as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YONAS BAYOU whose telephone number is (571)272-7610. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f,7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on 571-272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yonas Bayou/

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/Kambiz Zand/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2434